

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2023

7:00 PM

Town Hall – First Floor Meeting Room

Commissioners present:

Don Ward, Chair  
Ted Pitman, Vice Chair  
Don Roeder  
Anya Rosoff  
Rene Wood

Others Present: See meeting sign in sheet

Chair Ward opened the meeting at 7pm.

**1. Continuation of Public Hearing: Request for Determination of Applicability, filed by Richard & Catherine Goewey for property located at Water Farm Road, Sheffield, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 131, sec. 40. The purpose of the hearing is to install a culvert for driveway across seasonal stream.** Upon explanation that the Goeweys have hired Emily Stockman to assist them in their filing and expect to be ready for the Commission's February meeting, **R. Wood made a motion to continue the public hearing on this matter to February 13, 2023 at 7pm. The motion was seconded by D. Ward and approved 5-0.**

**2. Continuation of Public Hearing: Notice of Intent filed by Wesley McCain for property on 400 East Rd., in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 131, sec. 40. The proposed project: Aquatic Management Program at the McCain residence.** The applicant's agent having requested a continuance, **R. Wood made a motion to continue the public hearing on this matter to February 13, 2023 at 7pm. The motion was seconded by T. Pitman and approved 5-0.**

### 3. Public Inquiries.

Phil Hamm of Hudson, N.Y., builder of a proposed addition at 380 Hulett Hill Road, inquired as to whether the project was subject to the Wetland Protection Act or other Commission oversight, which he did not believe the project was. Maps were presented to support his belief and the Commission reviewed their own maps. It was the consensus of the Commissioners that no wetlands, flood plain, or other areas of potential concern were near the proposed project and there was no reason for their involvement, given the data presented.

Jim Kelly of Sheffield informed the Commission of three upcoming projects:

1. MA Fish and Game is doing forest cutting off Fiddlehead Trail on property they own to create a rabbit habitat for the NE Cottontail. The cutting plan was in the mail folder. J. Kelly will be doing treatment for invasive species as well as the cutting. The work will be done as an agricultural exemption with proper approved chemicals. The cut trees will be left as the habitat. While he does not anticipate changes from Fish and Game, a 2<sup>nd</sup> cutting plan will be filed.

2. Either an RDA or NOI will be filed for the 2/13/23 meeting for property on East Road held by the AEP Nominee Trust, Andy Carlson, Map 20, Block 4, Parcel 24.2' as it is in the flood plain. Survey and other work are being done.
3. Town of Sheffield has hired him to develop a cutting plan for the future highway garage on the Berkshire School Rd site. He discussed the work done to date and that he will come before the Commission on 2/13/23. The Commission discussed wanting to make sure that the cutting plan and involved areas conform to what they had previously approved in a Negative Determination for the filed RDA. The map J. Kelly presented to outline his work did not show the buildable envelope. Allowable cutting activities were discussed, which vary as to their location. It was decided by the Commission that:
  1. R. Wood will work with J. Hughes to get the approved map and related documents;
  2. Get J. Kelly the approved map; and
  3. David Cameron will review and advise the Commission going forward.D. Ward brought up an ACEC check list and his concerns regarding the water/liquid sheeting around the buildable envelope, potential drainage into the Schenob Brook, and the need for environmental protections and conservation of wetlands on the site during building and thereafter.

**4. Discussion/Possible Action Re: FY2024 Annual Budget.**

R. Wood presented the proposed budget developed by Town Administrator R. LaBombard. After discussion, **a motion made by R. Wood, seconded by T. Pitman, to accept the presented FY2024 Conservation Commission budget with two amendments: 1) increase in-state travel to \$200 and 2) increase Other/Books Publications to \$100, was approved by a 5-0 vote.**

**5. Approval of Minutes of 12/12/22.**

After these minutes were reviewed and corrections pointed out, **a motion made by R. Wood, seconded by T. Pitman, to accept the minutes of 12/12/22, as amended, was approved by a 5-0 vote.**

**6. Commission Member Items.**

Chair Ward reviewed the mail. Cutting plans reviewed included discussion of the various Chapter 61 plans and their regulations.

T. Pitman again brought up the matter of potential cutting near the McCain pond and was not sure noted there was a cutting plan signed by DCR. Chair Ward recommended calling T. Ryan to discuss, rather than another site visit.

**7. Adjournment. R. Wood made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by D. Roeder, and approved 5-0.** The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Rene Wood, Commissioner

**Documents reviewed at this meeting:**

- 1/9/23 Meeting Agenda
- 1/9/23 sign in sheet
- 12/12/22 draft minutes
- Proposed Conservation Commission FY24 Annual Budget
- Map for AEP Nominee Trust, Andy Carlson property
- Email from the Goeweys to Town Hall, dated 12/30/22, requesting a continuance
- Email from S. McCarthy to Town Hall, dated 1/5/23, requesting a continuance
- Packet of maps from Phil Hamm re: 380 Hulett Hill Rd, Sheffield
- DCR Transmittal letter, map, forest cutting plan, invasive plant treatment areas and buffer treatment areas for Fiddlehead Trail, Dept. of Fish and Game landowner
- Maps presented by J. Kelly re: potential cutting plan at Town Property on Berkshire School Rd; site of proposed highway garage.
- Forest cutting plan for land owned by Mitchell & Abigail Finn, not approved
- Forest cutting plan for land owned by DG Mountain Realty LLC on Bull Hill Rd & Silver St., approved
- Forest cutting plan for land owned by Matthew & Ann Fogarty on West Rd., approved